

04

AP® EUROPEAN HISTORY
2008 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)

Question 3

Analyze the ways in which **TWO** of the following groups challenged British liberalism between 1880 and 1914.

Feminists

Irish nationalists

Socialists

9–8 Points

- Thesis is clearly stated and addresses two groups with reference to liberalism.
- Organization is clear, consistently followed, and effective in support of the argument.
- The essay offers an analysis of the challenges **BOTH** groups posed to British liberalism.
- The essay demonstrates an understanding of the challenges to British liberalism.
- Several pieces of relevant evidence are offered in support of each group.
- May contain minor errors that do not detract from the argument.

7–6 Points

- Thesis is clearly stated and addresses two groups, although one group might be treated more superficially.
- The essay demonstrates an understanding of the challenges to British liberalism, even superficially.
- Organization is clear and effective in support of the argument but not consistently followed.
- Essay is balanced, although one group might be discussed in greater detail.
- At least one piece of relevant evidence is offered in support of each group.
- May contain a major error or several minor errors that detract from the argument.

5–4 Points

- Thesis is relevant and clearly stated but might refer to only one group.
- Organization is clear and effective in support of the argument but not consistently followed.
- Essay shows some imbalance: the two groups might be discussed appropriately but not in relation to liberalism, or the two groups' relation to liberalism might be discussed superficially.
- Most of the major assertions in the essay are supported by least one piece of relevant evidence.
- May contain a few major errors that detract from the argument.

3–2 Points

- No clear thesis or a thesis that merely repeats/paraphrases the prompt.
- Organization is unclear and ineffective.
- Essay shows serious imbalance: only one group may be discussed, or there is no discussion of liberalism.
- Only one or two major assertions are supported by relevant evidence.
- May contain several major errors that detract from the argument.

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Question 3 (continued)

1–0 Points

- No thesis or a thesis that is off task.
- No discernable organization.
- Only one of the groups is discussed superficially, or neither of the groups or liberalism are mentioned.
- Little or no supporting evidence is used.
- May contain numerous errors that detract from the argument.

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2008 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)

Question 3 Historical Background

This question asks students to present some specific information about two of the three groups of people listed and to relate those groups to "British liberalism." This suggests that students need to know and indicate in some fashion an awareness of the principles of "classical British liberalism," although the question does not require them to list those characteristics. Perhaps even more simply, students will also need to have a somewhat sophisticated understanding of the meaning of the word "challenged." A simple essay might list some ways two groups opposed the government. A more sophisticated essay might generalize from specific information and form a thesis that encompasses both groups (e.g., "All these 'outsiders,' whether successful in achieving their own goals or not, transformed the classical liberal limited government into a 'welfare state' through unparliamentary, usually violent, means"). Few essays go beyond broad generalizations. Any attention to (correct) detail is likely to move the essay into the "stronger" category.

Textbook Material

Hunt, *The Making of the West* (2nd edition, 2005)
Kagan, *The Western Heritage* (9th edition, 2007)
Merriman, *Modern Europe from the Renaissance to the Present* (2nd edition, 2004)
Noble et al., *Western Civilization: Beyond Boundaries* (4th edition, 2007)
Palmer, *A History of the Modern World* (12th edition, 2007)
Spielvogel, *Western Civilization Since 1300* (6th edition, 2006)

Palmer expresses the changes in British liberalism caused by all three of these groups. Violence replaced parliamentary means for outsider groups; nationalism increased over property rights; laissez-faire was limited by humanitarianism.

Feminists: primarily challenged paternalism of British liberalism and (as suggested by Hunt) male domination of property and politics.

Some texts (Merriman and Palmer in particular) give more theoretical background. During the nineteenth century women received greater rights of custody, control over property, and access to some professions. As other groups, including rural males, were granted parliamentary means to solve economic and civil rights issues, women (systematically excluded by liberals) saw suffrage as a necessity. Merriman says women's demands were opposed by liberals who (citing scientific opinion) believed women were less intelligent and less able to understand issues. Radicals and liberals also believed women would be inclined to listen to clerical recommendations. Texts discuss the internal conflict between moderate and radical women's groups as the movement became progressively more violent (from Kagan's description of Millicent Fawcett and the National Union of Women's Suffrage Society to Emmeline Pankhurst's Women's Social and Political Union [WSPU], which bombed David Lloyd George's house and was repressed by Herbert Henry Asquith's policies). The right to vote was granted in 1918 only to independent women who owned property as a reward for service in World War I. Mary Wollstonecraft and John Stuart Mill are mentioned as theorists.

- 1900: International Women's Suffrage Alliance.
- 1903: Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU).
- 1903: Emmeline Pankhurst leads radical wing of WSPU; violent confrontation.
- 1903: Beginning of violent protests, acid on golf greens, acts of vandalism.
- 1903: Beginning of mass arrests and suffragette hunger strikes.
- 1905: Bombing of David Lloyd George's home by WSPU.

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Question 3 Historical Background (continued)

- 1907: Women may serve in local government.
- 1913: Public suicide of Emily Davison at Epsom Downs.

Irish nationalists: challenged liberal support for self-determination and individual rights in conflict with the rights of property.

Most texts see the Irish nationalist goal of Home Rule as part of the larger "Irish Question." A solution to Irish discontent was always a goal of William Gladstone and of many liberals. In 1886 the liberals succeeded in disestablishing the Anglican Church. However, Gladstone's efforts were thwarted by liberals who wanted to protect the rights of Irish landowners. In this case, two British liberal values, self-determination and property rights, clashed. The Irish nationalist response to liberals was to create an increasingly militant organization from the merger of the Irish Land League and the Irish Republican Brotherhood in 1879. The conflict within the Liberal Party eventually led to the creation of a Labour party, as Liberal Unionists split on the Irish Home Rule issues. Home Rule passed in the Commons several times and was vetoed by the House of Lords, but it finally succeeded in 1911 after the Parliament Act of 1911 limited the veto power of the Lords. Home Rule was suspended by the impending World War, and it was not until 1921 (after a guerrilla civil war) that the Irish Free State was created.

- 1879: Beginning of Irish farmers' land war against absentee English aristocracy.
- 1879: Irish Land League supported the farmers' land war.
- 1880: "Boycott" entered the English language, as Irish Land League takes on Captain Boycott.
- 1880: Charles Parnell (Liberal Irish Protestant) began to push for Home Rule.
- 1882: British officials hacked to death in Phoenix Park, Dublin.
- 1913: Formation of the Irish Volunteers.
- 1919: Creation of the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Socialists: challenged liberal philosophy of laissez-faire and limited government action in social issues.

All texts point out that British socialism was unrelated to Marxism or other international radical movements. Merriman identifies British socialists as reform socialists interested in increasing political participation in order to pass legislation to improve working conditions. They were willing to cooperate with other parties, notably the Fabian Society, in favor of gradual change to improve living standards, and H. M. Hyndman's Social Democratic Federation. Spielvogel, Kagan, and Noble especially describe the political changes in response to socialist demands. In 1901 the trade unions and the Fabians created the Labour Party after the Taff Vale decision making trade unions responsible for business losses caused by labor strikes. By 1906 the Liberal Party (challenged by the trade unions, Fabians, and the threat of a new Labour Party [1901]) began to support social reform such as retirement pension, health care, income tax, and death duties. It was Lloyd George's efforts at social reform that led to the elimination of the veto power of the House of Lords.

- 1884: Fabian Society
- 1893: Independent Labour Party
- 1899: Thomas R. Steels and the Trade Union Congress
- 1901: English Labour Party